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## **AYCOCK HOSTS CENTENNIAL SYMPOSIUM**

On January 19-20, 2001, Aycock Birthplace, the North Carolina Humanities Council, and Wayne Community College presented a symposium on the occasion of the centennial of the inauguration of Gov. Charles B. Aycock. About 170 people (some from as far away as Asheville) attended "Charles B. Aycock's North Carolina: Politics, Education, and Race Relations in the Progressive Era."

The program opened with a dramatic reading by Wayne Community College's Ray Brannon (introduced by Jo Ann Williford from the Archives and History director's office) of a portion of Aycock's folksy, oft-used educational speech as given in Alabama in 1912. Aycock actually died of a heart attack during the unfinished speech.

The symposium attracted an exceptional array of distinguished formal speakers. Dr. William A. Link, Lucy Spinks Keker Excellence Professor and chair of the Department of History at UNC at Greensboro, spoke on "The Paradoxes of Southern Reform: The Case of North Carolina." Dr. Jeffrey J. Crow, director of the N.C. Division of Archives and History, discussed "The North Carolina Partisan Press in the 1890s." Dr. James L. Leloudis, associate dean for honors, College of Arts and Sciences, director of the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence, and associate professor of history at UNC at Chapel Hill, addressed the group on "Public Education and the Making of a New North Carolina." Dr. John H. Haley, associate professor of history at UNC at Wilmington, gave remarks on "Reckoning with Race: The Progressive Paradox."

A Saturday visit to the birthplace featured guided tours of the house and separate kitchen, time to explore the visitor center, and a performance of living history by independent consultant Kathy Bundy, who gave a ca. 1900 schoolmarm presentation in the site's 1893 schoolhouse. In Ms. Bundy's interactive activity participants learned firsthand what it was like to be a student in a structured classroom of that day. Children stood to speak and to greet the teacher, boys and girls sat quietly and separately, and there was much recitation in unison.

Secondary school teachers benefited from a final symposium component designed just for their needs. Dr. Gary Freeze, James Hurley Scholar in Residence and associate professor of history at Catawba College, led a map session on "Making the Maps Match: Disfranchisement's Connections." Claire Pittman, field experience supervisor and instructor in the Department of History at ECU, shared resources in "Making the Progressive Era Come Alive: Local History Inside and Outside the Classroom."

Congratulations to Charlotte Brow and the Aycock staff for an outstanding and well attended scholarly program.

**CORNERSTONE**

I hope 2001 has begun on a positive note for each of you. I had the opportunity to attend Aycock Birthplace's symposium, "Charles B. Aycock's North Carolina: Politics, Education, and Race Relations in the Progressive Era." Judging from the success of that program, Aycock is off and running. My congratulations to Charlotte Brow and her staff!

On January 22 I attended the swearing-in of our new secretary, Lisbeth C. "Libba" Evans. I enjoyed meeting Secretary Evans and think that we all will enjoy working with her. We have invited the secretary to attend some or all of the Leadership Academy in late February and hope she will be able to accept the invitation. From newspaper articles I know that Secretary Evans will be looking for ways to supplement state funding for departmental programs. She also has a strong interest in technology. This agenda meshes very well with our own sectional goals.

Over the next month our Historic Sites supervisors will have the opportunity to build leadership skills. On January 29 Dr. Crow will host a workshop for support groups of the N.C. Division of Archives and History, including those of our own program. Site managers and support group representatives will be able to learn about various responsibilities of nonprofit organizations as they relate to state agencies. I'm certain that all of us in the section will learn about how we can more effectively work with our support groups to improve individual sites and the program as a whole. Then on February 26-27 the Historic Sites Leadership Academy will provide all of us with improved skills in dealing with change in a positive manner, building community support, understanding the requirements of grants and fundraising, and taking advantage of training opportunities both inside and outside the Historic Sites Section. I look forward to seeing many of you at these two events. We will all learn together about these important topics, made even more important in this era of declining state-appropriated resources.

Finally, let me welcome Donny Taylor to the manager's position at Bentonville Battleground. Donny's numerous years of service at CSS Neuse and Aycock Birthplace, along with his deep interest in Civil War history, battlefield preservation, and reenacting (including a very long list of programs at our own sites), gives him a solid background to tackle his new job. Donny will do well at Bentonville working with the staff, the Bentonville Battlefield Historical Association, community residents, and others. Congratulations, Donny!

I look forward to seeing you in the months ahead. Here's wishing us all good fortune in 2001!

(Jim McPherson)

## MINORITY OUTREACH PLANNING GETS UNDERWAY

In the summer of 2000 an e-mail went out from the home office to all sites informing them of the forthcoming creation of a Minority Outreach Committee (MOC). Since that time an interim MOC structure has become a reality. The primary purpose of the committee is to develop programs that will encourage more diverse visitation to our state historic sites. The committee is charged with assessing the cultural and social needs of minority populations in communities surrounding our historic sites and the implementation of programs that will help build lasting relationships between our historic sites and minority communities in our state.

### The Problem

Since the establishment of state-funded historic sites in North Carolina, minorities (particularly African Americans and Native Americans) have historically constituted a very small percentage of visitors. In an effort to increase minority visitation to our sites, the MOC hopes to conduct a study of visitation patterns by minority groups to our state historic sites in order to suggest ways to expand minority participation at the sites.

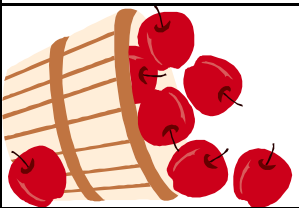
### MOC Actions

In order to encourage minorities to participate in programs at our various state historic sites, there must be something of interest for that cultural group at individual sites. Various studies of cultural institutions have supported this concept. A site's image should reflect something of particular interest to the minority community. For example, perhaps historically accepted minority cultural events could be recognized and celebrated at more sites.

Currently our historic sites do not collect data on minority or ADA visitors. The MOC is now in the process of developing a prospective study. However, the most recent action of the committee, which promises to have more immediate impact when completed, is the development of brochures in foreign languages for our sites. We expect to begin with Spanish, the tongue of the fastest growing minority in North Carolina. A recent survey of sites indicates that brochures in foreign languages are only available at a few sites and that managers generally want more of those resources.

(Charles Wadelington)

## "CHRISTMAS AND THE APPLE" AT ALAMANCE



Despite cloudy, damp conditions and cold temperatures, visitors enjoyed our "Christmas and the Apple" program at the Allen House on Sunday, December 10. The decorations inside the historic structure, featuring unique uses of natural greenery and apples, created interesting conversation all afternoon. While waiting to sample roasted apples being prepared over the fire, our first-time and repeat guests partook of other apple-based refreshments, such as hot mulled cider, apple bread, applesauce cake, and apple butter. Several of those in attendance enjoyed the culinary delights so much that they requested copies of the recipes. All in all, it was a great experience for everyone involved.

(Teressa Martindale)

## COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT TRAINING SERIES

The first Collections Management Training Series ended with a wet finale on January 8, 2001. The series began in November 1999 for staff members interested in learning more about professional collections management and taking a greater role in collections work at sites. The seven sessions covered topics such as proper artifact handling, documentation and procedures for receiving objects, describing and cataloging artifacts, basic conservation, codes of ethics, basic housekeeping, numbering artifacts and using Re: Discovery.



The final workshop, conducted by Sharon Bennett of the Charleston Museum, was a disaster recovery drill. A variety of objects were placed on shelves and the ground outside the Jordan House, then left under a sprinkler for about 3 hours. Subfreezing temperatures resulted in an additional challenge, as objects froze together. Participants were given some basic guidelines, and packing supplies were made available. Without time to study the material in depth, the students were told, "You have arrived at your site this morning to find that your collection is soaking wet. It is now your responsibility to take care of the objects."

After about an hour in the cold, working with wet objects, we broke for a review and discussion of the work. The workshop was frustrating, informative, enlightening, and very educational.

Ten permanent staff members completed the workshop series. Receiving certificates were John Bechtel, Judy Chilcoat, Carolyn Dilda, Elizabeth Faison, Ray Flowers, Mia Graham, Bob Hopkins, John Mercer, Becky Sawyer, and Leigh Swain. Temporary collections assistant Robert Parker also completed the series.

The collections branch staff will review the workshops and the participants' evaluations. We plan to offer the series again, beginning in the fall of 2001.



(Clare Bass)

### FORT FISHER RESEARCH LIBRARY TAKES SHAPE

The *American Heritage Dictionary* says volunteering is “acting or serving in a specified capacity willingly and without constraint or guarantee of reward.” How fortunate we are at Historic Sites to find people who subscribe to this definition.

After the building renovation, for the first time, Ft. Fisher had a library/conference room, but books, articles, photos, letters, and research collected through the years remained quite disorganized. Then Charlie McKee stopped by the site to look through the research material. His great grandfather, Robert James McEwen, was stationed at Ft. Fisher. After seeing the status of our library, Charlie graciously offered to help organize all of our resources.

Charlie has inventoried every book in our library. Individual folders housing research data have been sorted and cataloged. We hope to group them in spiral notebooks in the future. A box of letters and other materials is being examined at present. Much remains to be done.

Many hours have been put into this effort. Sometimes we see Charlie several times a week for a few hours, and then he is off to hit golf balls. Charlie lives his life to the fullest. He fills his days with family, exercise, golfing, and research. He considers himself a student of history, always looking for the unknown.

Charlie has lived an interesting life. He is very active in and proud of matters of Scottish heritage. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, he majored in English, European and Oriental history, and North American archaeology. He worked in Army intelligence and aviation and also has experience in human resources and industrial relations. Charlie utilized his research talents for five years to produce *Bladen County Vital Records, 1754-1915*, which helped Bladen County restore records lost through the years in three courthouse fires. In addition, Charlie has published articles in historical journals and done extensive field research surveying Indian village sites in the Pee Dee River valley of North Carolina. Charlie is also an active member of the Sons of the Revolution. Three of his ancestors were in the Revolutionary War.

We feel that Charlie has become one of us. If he notices that we need help, he is always ready to jump in. A fountain of information, he eagerly shares it with those who want to listen and has many real-life stories to tell.

Soon Charlie will be going home to Gastonia. He watches over more than 500 acres of farmland that have been in his family for 200 years. We have tried very hard to convince him to stay, and we have an ace in the hole. Charlie's daughters and granddaughters live here, and he has a vacation home in Carolina Beach, so we will see him fairly regularly. He plans to keep working on visits here.

We want to take this opportunity to tell Charlie McKee “thank you!” We have enjoyed getting to know him and having him around. We appreciate his efforts to make our library one where people will enjoy doing research. We will miss him and look forward to his next visit to those granddaughters, as we know he will want to stop to see us too.

(Tammie Bangert)

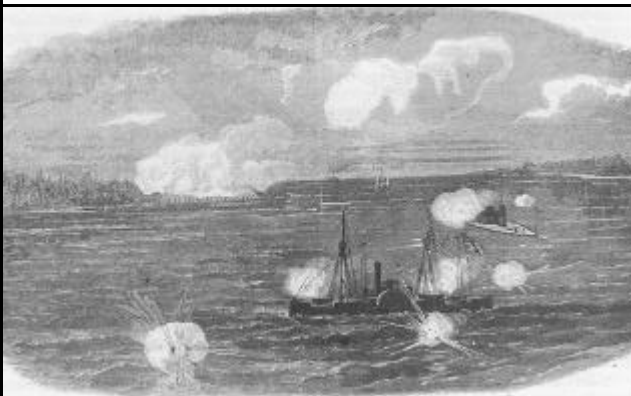


## FORT ANDERSON: A BATTLE WITH FOOTNOTES

Constructed on the west side of the Cape Fear River over the abandoned town of Brunswick, Fort Anderson offered protection to the port of Wilmington, upon which the Confederacy was so dependent for importation of supplies. Originally named Fort St. Philip in honor of the ruins of St. Philip's Anglican Church, it was later renamed to honor Brig. Gen. George Burgwyn Anderson, who died October 16, 1862, from battlefield wounds suffered at Bloody Lane at Sharpsburg.

When complete, the earthen fort was equipped with two large five-gun batteries and a smaller line of emplacements that employed much of the natural topography of the area. These two batteries, designated Batteries A and B, were built parallel to the Cape Fear River with mounds approximately 20 to 25 feet high. The batteries were armed with one Whitworth, three rifled 32-pounders, and six smoothbore 32-pounders.

Throughout most of the war the garrison saw no action, and duty was often referred to as boring and routine. However, when it did finally see action after the fall of Fort Fisher in January 1865, Fort Anderson created a few interesting footnotes to Civil War history.



Bombardment of Fort Anderson—note the ironclad *Montauk* on the right.

(from *Harper's Weekly*)

Prior to the primary attack on Fort Anderson of February 18, Union Lt. William Cushing had an idea. The Union monitor *Montauk* had successfully shelled the fort for several days without sustaining damage from return fire. Believing the sight of another monitor would cause the Confederate troops to detonate their torpedoes in the river, Cushing had a fake monitor built and sent it drifting toward the fort.

A few shots were fired, but otherwise there was little response—Confederate reports indicated awareness of the fake monitor being built and an understanding of its purpose. Cushing, always one to think highly of his own actions, later boasted that the fake monitor scared the Confederates into abandoning the fort.

The real cause of Fort Anderson's evacuation was the approaching Union army. As the U.S. Navy took aim at Fort Anderson from down river, Federal infantry moved just outside the fort at Orton Pond. Realizing the danger to the south and west, Gen. Johnson Hagood, commander of the fort, ordered artillery to fire into the Federals just beneath the fort with great precision and accuracy, quickly killed and injured many Union soldiers. The battle became so intense that, in an attempt to inspire the Union soldiers, the 104<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry regimental band started continuously playing patriotic tunes. Confederates within the fort also heard the music above the artillery firing. Not to be outdone and to encourage the Confederate troops, the Eutaw Band of the 25<sup>th</sup> South Carolina commenced to play Confederate patriotic songs. Thus began what later was called the "Battle of the Bands."

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## NEW GUILFORD COURTHOUSE FILM WILL FEATURE ALLEN HOUSE

The production of a new visitor orientation film for Guilford Courthouse National Military Park is now under way. Actual filming at designated locations in Alamance and Guilford Counties began in late November and concluded in early December. Our own Allen House was one location chosen because of its historical authenticity and ties to an eighteenth-century Quaker family. Officials with the National Park Service selected Boston-based Northern Light Productions to produce the work, which is entitled *Another Such Victory: The Battle of Guilford Courthouse*.

Although thirty-degree temperatures on the day of the shoot here at Alamance created some difficulties, the scheduled filming proceeded as originally planned. On Wednesday, December 6, around ninety actors, actresses, reenactors, and production crew members all withstood the brisk conditions and completed the scenes shot at the Allen House. Those present huddled around portable heaters and spent brief periods of time in our visitor center to keep warm. Some participants were shaking so much from the cold when they came inside that it was difficult for them to even eat their lunches.

The specific scenes filmed involved the transformation (for purposes of the filming) of the Allen House into a Quaker home taken under control by the British and used as a hospital. The original community of New Garden was the geographic location being portrayed. Through the magic of makeup, actors portraying battle-weary and wounded soldiers (American and British) from the Battle of Guilford Courthouse could be seen receiving medical treatment and care. Quakers from the area, as they actually did during the American Revolution, worked alongside a British surgeon, providing whatever assistance possible.

According to Bob Vogel, superintendent of the national military park, the cost of the overall project will be approximately \$300,000. Funding for the film is coming from donations. We look forward to seeing the final product when it debuts on July 4, 2001.

(Bryan Dalton)

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But even with the best their band could play, the Confederates knew they could not continue defending the fort. In the early morning hours of February 19, they quietly evacuated. The Union troops attacked at first light but were not overly surprised to find the fort abandoned—they had not heard noise throughout the night. As they occupied the fort, they were soon forced to take cover from hostile naval fire. Quickly the Federal soldiers in the fort dashed to the river and began blowing bugles and waving any white cloth they could find to catch the attention of the Union ships. And so, in one of the last battles of the Civil War, the Union was forced to surrender to itself.

Today Fort Anderson retains significant earthen fortifications. The visitor center is newly renovated, and we anticipate updated exhibits in the near future.

(Jimmy Bartley)

## BENNETT PLACE FALL LIVING HISTORY 2000



In October 1864 daily life on the homefront in the North Carolina Piedmont was difficult and arduous. Civilians lived by the motto “make do or do without,” devising substitutes for scarce items and supplying the Confederate army with needed items such as socks, shirts, and hospital stores.

The price of flour was high, and most of the food produced was impressed to feed the soldiers, leaving families at home in a desperate need of food. Many women traveled miles on foot seeking a farmer who would sell, and speculators hoarded food in order to create inflation and greater profits. As a result, women all over the South rioted at gristmills and stores, demanding flour at prices set by the government and threatening the owners with hatchets and hoes.

On the homefront, the relationship between military and civilians was reciprocal, dependent, and often frightening. By that time, elderly men and young boys were conscripted into service, leaving mothers, wives, and sisters alone at home. Soldiers often convalesced at private homes, giving hope to a community which had lost so many men to battle and disease.

Pleas from home to the soldiers caused many to desert during the difficult times of harvesting and planting. Families often fed and hid deserters until they could no longer support them. Some military officials threatened women to encourage them to divulge the location of the deserters.

With the loss of men, scarce supplies, and declining morale among soldiers and civilians, the burden of war created many hardships on the homefront.

On October 21, 2000, the Bennett Place presented a program entitled “Soldiers and Civilians,” depicting those social issues of the time. Bennett Place volunteers and reenactors from the Eno Soldiers' Relief Society and the Atlantic Guard Soldiers' Aid Society portrayed yeoman farm families beset by growing destitution.



Volunteers led guided tours through the historic area, where costumed interpreters presented a series of semi-scripted, first-person scenarios dealing with issues such as conscription, desertion, speculation, refugees, convalescing soldiers, shortages, and substitutes. The event was well received by the public, many of whom commented they learned a lot and were touched by the hardships endured by their ancestors.

(Mia Graham)





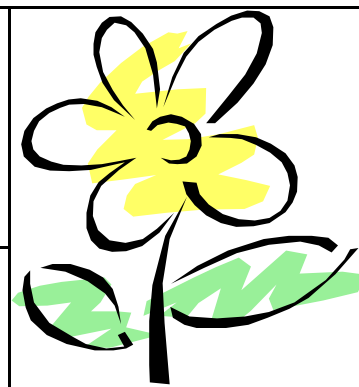
### ARE YOU TOO WIRED?

1. You now think of three espressos as “getting started.”
2. You haven’t played solitaire with a real deck of cards in years.
3. You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of 3.
4. You e-mail your son in his room to tell him that dinner is ready, and he e-mails you back “What’s for dinner?”
5. Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her web site.
6. You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven’t spoken to your next door neighbor yet this year.
7. Your grandmother clogs up your e-mail inbox, asking you to send her JPEG files of your newborn so she can create a screen saver.
8. Every commercial on television has a website address at the bottom of the screen.
9. You buy a computer, and a week later it is out of date and sells for half the price you paid.
10. The concept of using real money, instead of credit or debit, to make a purchase is foreign to you.
11. Cleaning up the dining room means getting the fast food bags out of the backseat of your car.
12. Your reason for not staying in touch with family is that they do not have e-mail addresses.
13. You consider second-day air delivery painfully slow.
14. Your dining room table is now your flat filing cabinet.
15. Your idea of being organized is multiple-colored Post-it notes.
16. You hear most of your jokes via e-mail instead of in person.
17. You’re reading this on your computer.

from [www.langa.com](http://www.langa.com)’s “langalist” computer newsletter.

### YOU’RE IN OUR THOUGHTS

- John Dysart’s sister was in the hospital and is now recovering at home.
- Bobby Johnson (Bentonville) is in the hospital.



### PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Stan Little (NCTM) was promoted to historic sites specialist III at the home office.
- Alane Mills (NCTM) was promoted to office assistant IV.
- Elizabeth Lawson (Wolfe) began as office assistant III.
- Rickie Jessup (Horne Creek) began as interpreter I.
- Andrew Duppsstadt (CSS Neuse) began as interpreter III.
- Ted Mitchell (Wolfe) resigned as interpreter I.